

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 01232 211522Z  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /028 W  
-----211529Z 025001 /53

R 161455Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4430

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 1232

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (EO, TAGS, AND SUBJECT)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, JM

SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS, FINAL FIGURES

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: FIGURES FOR THE MARCH 8 PARISH AND  
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS HAVE NOW BEEN RELEASED. THEY  
REVEAL THAT:

-- OF THOSE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE, 57.9 PERCENT  
CAST BALLOTS. THIS COMPARES WITH 62.9  
PERCENT IN THE 1974 LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
ELECTIONS AND 85.0 PERCENT IN THE 1976  
PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS.

-- BASED ON PRELIMINARY STATISTICS, THE  
PEOPLES NATIONAL PARTY (PNP) RECEIVED  
67.5 PERCENT OF THE VOTES CAST AND THE  
JAMAICA LABOUR PARTY (JLP) THE REMAINING  
32.5 PERCENT. THIS COMPARES WITH (A)  
53.9 PERCENT FOR THE PNP AND 43.3 PERCENT  
FOR THE JLP IN THE 1974 LOCAL GOVERN-  
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MENT ELECTIONS AND (B) 56.8 PERCENT FOR  
THE PNP AND 43.2 PERCENT FOR THE JLP  
IN THE 1976 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS.

-- THE PNP WON 237 OF THE 269 SEATS CONTESTED  
WHILE THE JLP WON 31 (THE RESULTS IN ONE  
SEAT HAVE BEEN CHALLENGED). IN THE 1974

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS, THE PNP WON  
174 OF THE 265 SEATS CONTESTED AND THE JLP  
83; EIGHT SEATS WENT TO OTHER CANDIDATES.

END CLASSIFIED

2. COMMENT: THE RESULTS IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
ELECTIONS DEMONSTRATE ONCE AGAIN THE PNP'S ABILITY TO  
MARSHAL A COMMANDING NUMBER OF VOTES. HOWEVER, THE  
VICTORY HAS BEEN MARRED, JUST AS WAS THAT IN THE  
DEC 1976 PARLIMENTARY ELECTIONS, BY BOTH  
RUMORES AND SUBSTANTIATED REPORTS OF ELECTORAL IRREGU-  
LARITIES. GLENEAR COLUMIST JOHN HEARNE WORTE ON  
MARCH 13 OF HIS EXPERIENCES ON THE DAY OF THE  
POLLING IN THE ROSE TOWN AREA OF KINGSTON, AND  
TOLD OF STOLEN BALLOT PAPERS, MISSING BALLOT BOXES,  
CLOSED POLLING STATIONS, VOTING BY RINGERS AND  
OTHER VERY IRREGULAR ACTS. HEARNE WROTE ABOUT A  
SINGLE AREA BUT SUCH ACTS OCCURRED IN MANY OTHER  
PLACES. WHILE IT SEEMS ENTIRELY LIKELY THAT JLP  
SUPPORTERS IN SOME AREAS WERE ALSO GUILTY OF IRREGU-  
LARITIES, PNP ENTHUSIASTS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN THE  
OVERWHELMING OFFENDERS. THE SADDEST PART OF THIS  
STORY OF MISDEEDS LIES IN THE FACT THAT INsofar AS  
THE PNP WAS CONCERNED, THERE WAS NO NEED TO FALL BACK  
ON ILLEGAL PRACTICES. AS THE SIZE OF THE VOTE SHOWS,  
THE PNP WOULD HAVE WON IN A WALKAWAY, AND NO DIRTY  
TRICKS WERE REQUIRED.

GERARD

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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